

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

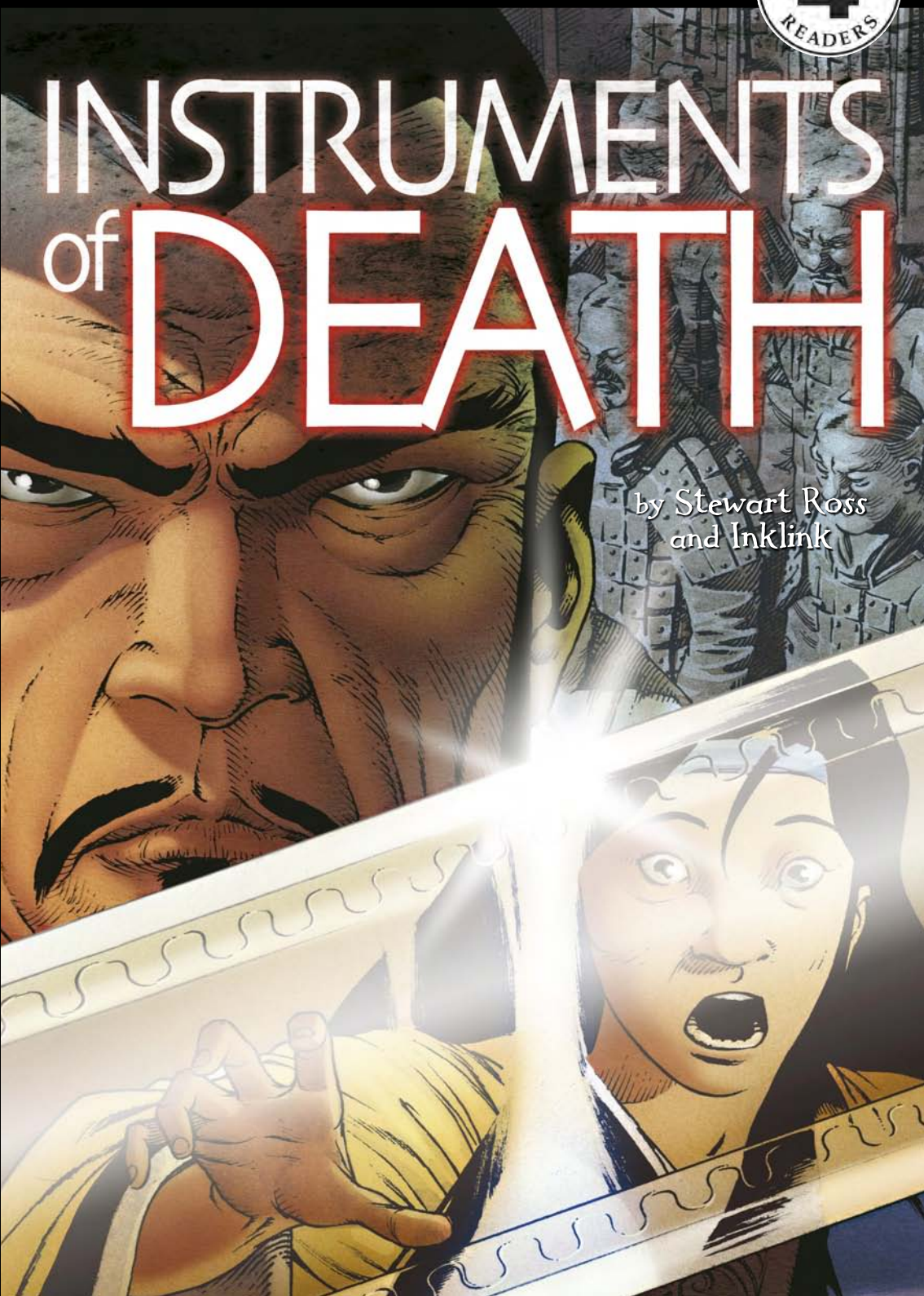


GRAPHIC READERS

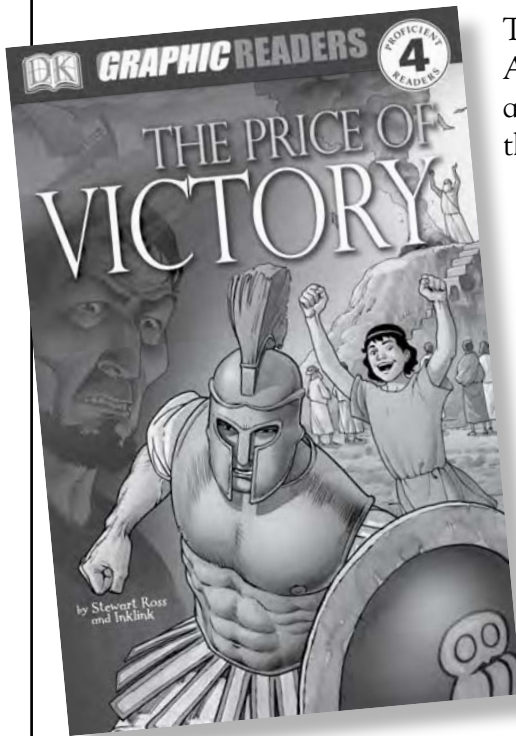


INSTRUMENTS of DEATH

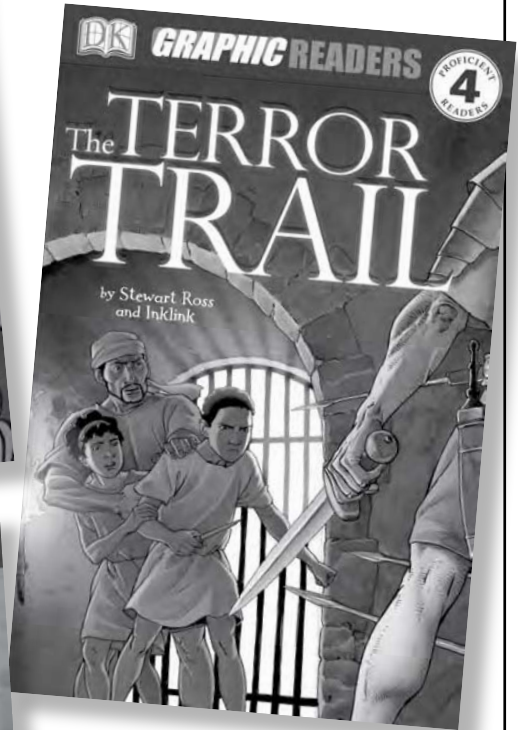
by Stewart Ross
and Inklank



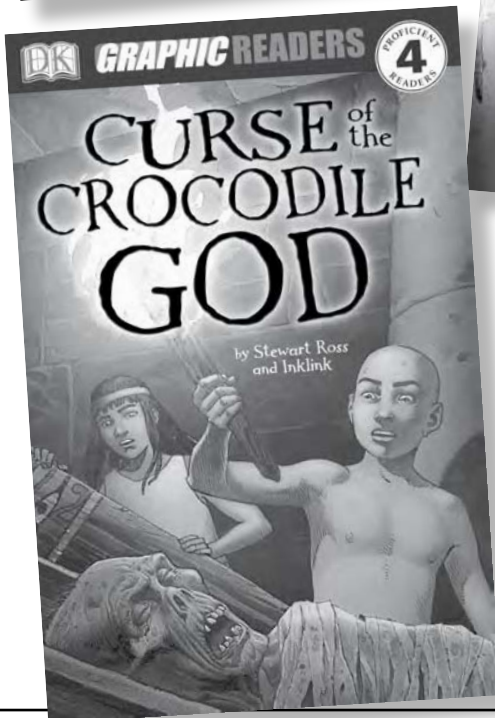
Don't miss...



THE PRICE OF VICTORY
An exciting story of rivalry
and sabotage at
the Olympic Games.



THE TERROR TRAIL
A breathless tale of faith
and justice in Rome's
arena of death,
the Colosseum.



**CURSE OF THE
CROCODILE GOD**
A terrifying tale of tomb
robbers in Ancient Egypt.

A Note to Parents and Teachers

DK READERS is a compelling program for beginning readers, designed in conjunction with leading literacy experts, including Dr. Linda Gambrell, Professor of Education at Clemson University. Dr. Gambrell has served as President of the National Reading Conference and the College Reading Association, and has recently been elected to serve as President of the International Reading Association.

Beautiful illustrations and superb full-color photographs combine with engaging, easy-to-read stories to offer a fresh approach to each subject in the series.

Each DK READER is guaranteed to capture a child's interest while developing his or her reading skills, general knowledge, and love of reading.

The five levels of DK READERS are aimed at different reading abilities, enabling you to choose the books that are exactly right for your child:

- Pre-level 1:** Learning to read
- Level 1:** Beginning to read
- Level 2:** Beginning to read alone
- Level 3:** Reading alone
- Level 4:** Proficient readers

The “normal” age at which a child begins to read can be anywhere from three to eight years old. Adult participation through the lower levels is very helpful for providing encouragement, discussing storylines, and sounding out unfamiliar words.

No matter which level you select, you can be sure that you are helping your child learn to read, then read to learn!





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on page 45, the palace on page 46 and the terracotta soldiers on
page 47 by Richard Bonson.

Discover more at
www.dk.com

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READERS



INSTRUMENTS of DEATH

Written by Stewart Ross
Illustrated by Inklinc



INSTRUMENTS OF DEATH

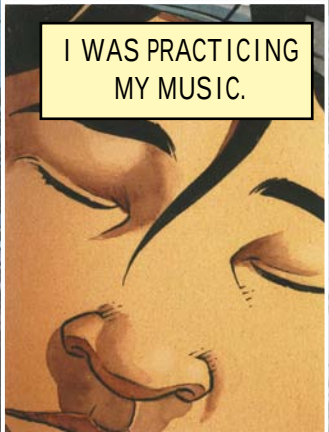
Shen's story takes place in Ancient China about 2,500 years ago. China was ruled by Emperor Shihuangdi, a ruthless warrior who had conquered all the kingdoms of China and united them for the first time under the Qin Empire. Our hero, Shen, lives in a village near the Great Wall of China. Turn to page 42 to see a map and timeline, and then let the story begin....



"My name is Shen and I am 11 years old. Since I was a young boy, I have been learning to play a musical instrument called the zither. I love playing this beautiful stringed instrument and practice every day. Until recently, I was living a quiet life with my parents in a small village. My life was a world away from the Emperor's court. Suddenly, everything changed when I was summoned to play for the mighty Emperor...."



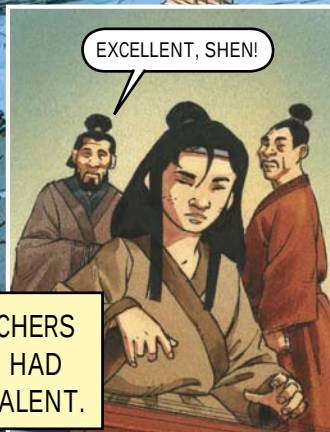
IT WAS EVENING
IN MY VILLAGE IN
NORTHERN CHINA.



I WAS PRACTICING
MY MUSIC.



MY TEACHERS
SAID I HAD
GREAT TALENT.



EXCELLENT, SHEN!

BUT I WAS LUCKY NOT TO BE
TOILING ON THE **GREAT WALL**...



...LIKE OTHERS IN
MY VILLAGE.



FASTER, YOU
DOGS!

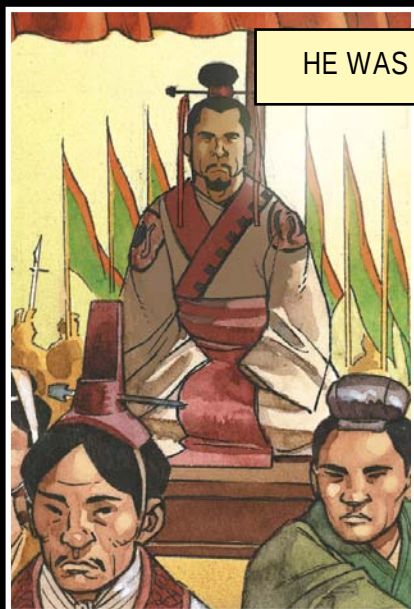
THERE WERE STORIES
OF TERRIBLE ACCIDENTS.



THIS ONE'S
DEAD!



OH, NO!
ON YOUR KNEES!
IT'S THE **EMPEROR**!



HE WAS **SHI HUANGDI**...

...SON OF HEAVEN,
LORD OF LIFE...

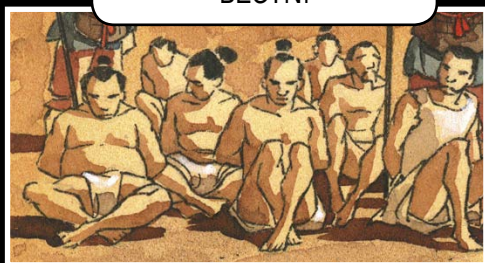
...AND OF
DEATH.



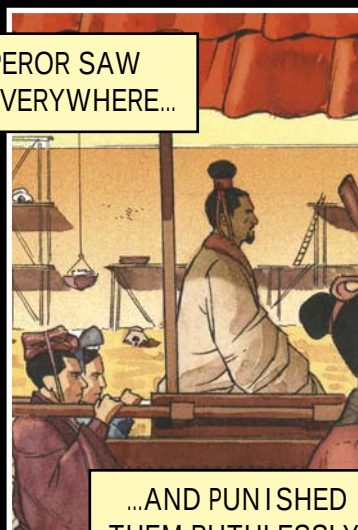
BRING OUT THE
CORRUPT OVERSEERS!



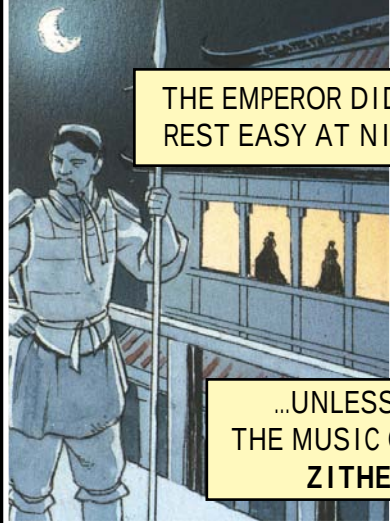
LET THE **EXECUTIONS**
BEGIN!



THE EMPEROR SAW
ENEMIES EVERYWHERE...



...AND PUNISHED
THEM RUTHLESSLY.



THE EMPEROR DID NOT
REST EASY AT NIGHT...



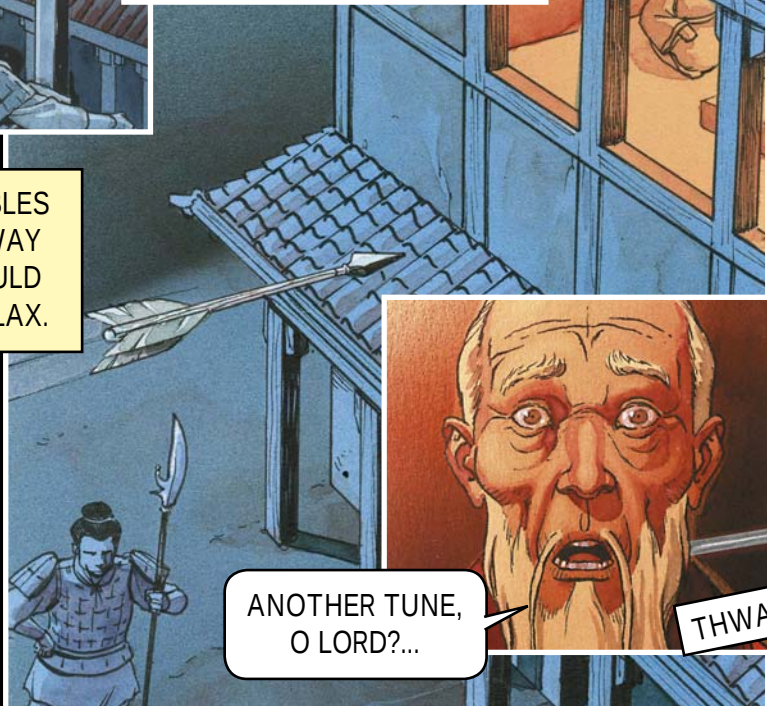
...UNLESS CALMED BY
THE MUSIC OF HIS FINEST
ZITHER PLAYER.



AS THE SWEET SOUNDS
WASHED OVER HIM...



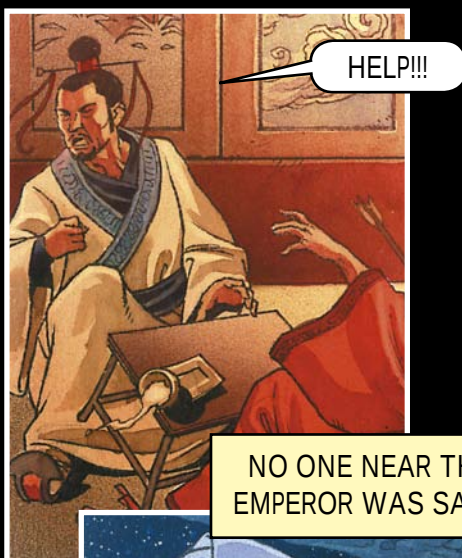
...HIS TROUBLES
SLIPPED AWAY
AND HE COULD
FINALLY RELAX.



ANOTHER TUNE,
O LORD?...



THWACK!

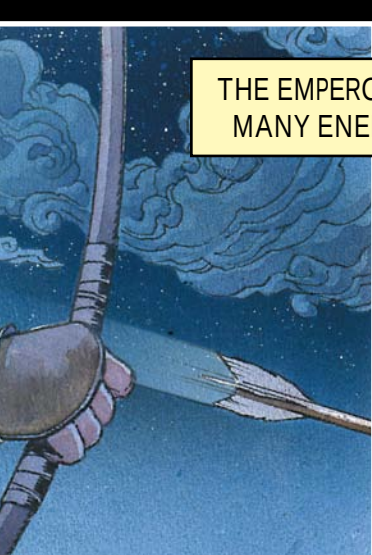


ASSASSINS!

THWACK!

CAPTAIN!
GUARDS!





THE EMPEROR HAD
MANY ENEMIES.



ARGHH!

THE ASSASSIN'S
ON THE ROOF!



WE'VE GOT HIM
CORNERED!



UGH!

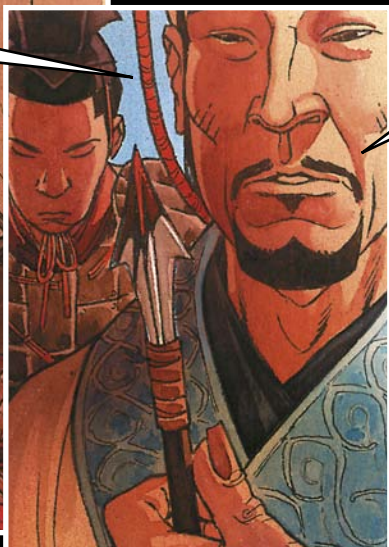
GOT HIM!



WE COULD NOT
TAKE HIM ALIVE.



THAT ARROW
WAS MEANT
FOR ME!



GET THE COURT
TOGETHER.
WE WILL RETURN
TO THE CAPITAL...



...IMMEDIATELY!



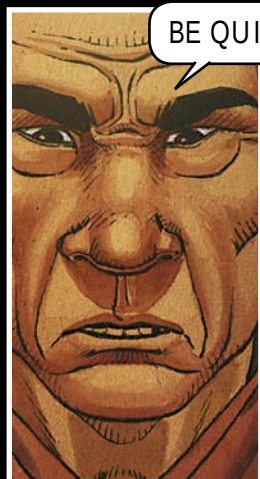
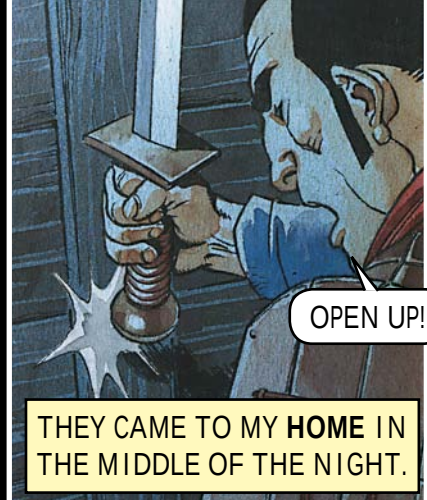
AND ONE MORE
THING!

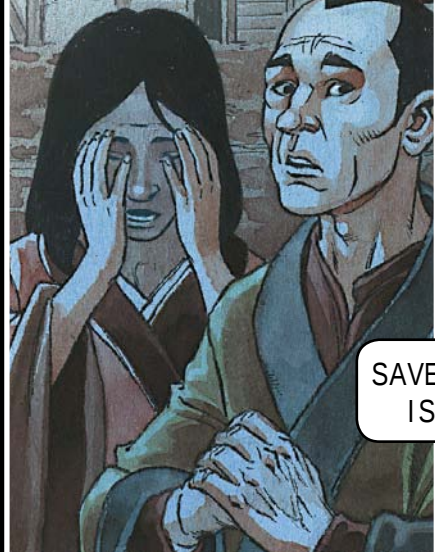


BRING ME A NEW
ZITHER PLAYER...

...BY THIS TIME
TOMORROW!







SAVE YOUR TEARS! THE BOY
IS WANTED AT COURT.



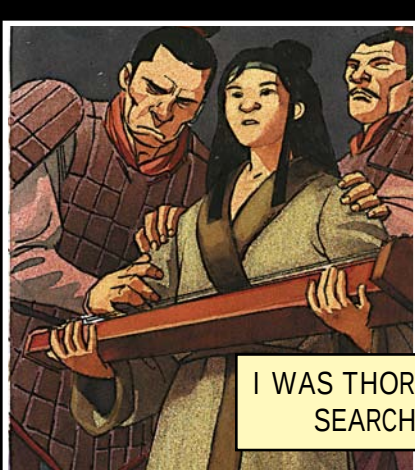
THEN WE WERE
GONE...



...LEAVING MY PARENTS
WITH **MONEY** IN PLACE
OF A SON.

I WAS TAKEN UNDER
HEAVY GUARD TO
BEGIN MY NEW LIFE.





I WAS THOROUGHLY
SEARCHED.



THEN BROUGHT
BEFORE THE
EMPEROR,
SHIHUANGDI!



THEY SAY THE BOY
HAS TALENT, SIRE.



PLAY, CHILD!



TERRIFIED, I DID
AS I WAS TOLD.



AND THE LORD OF THE
WORLD SMILED!



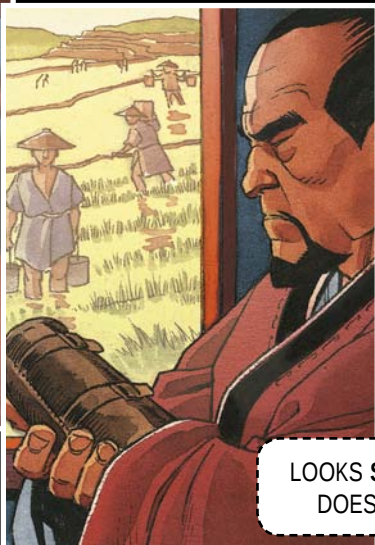
SO I BECAME A
ROYAL **MUSICIAN**
AND TRAVELED
WITH THE COURT.



ON THE JOURNEY, I WATCHED
MY NEW COMPANIONS .



I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
THINKING!



LOOKS **SINISTER**,
DOESN'T HE?



HIS NAME IS
COUNT GAO.



I'M DUKE SONG, BY
THE WAY.

I'M SHEN.



WELL, SHEN, I BET YOU'RE
WONDERING HOW GAO LOST
HIS HAND?



THE TRUTH IS...



...NO ONE KNOWS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE
KINGDOM OF CHU...

NEWS OF OUR
ASSASSIN, SIRE.

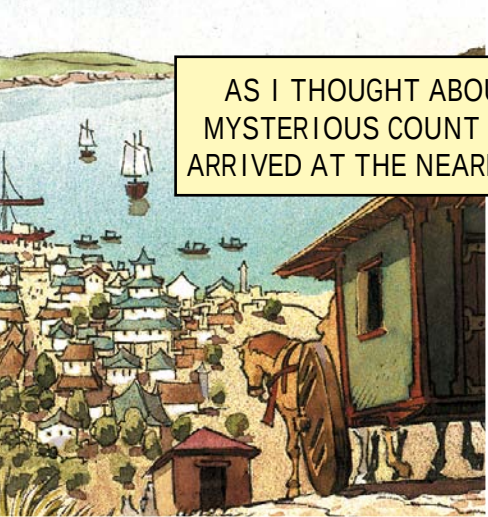
HE FAILED!

IT'S TIME FOR THE
MASTER PLAN!

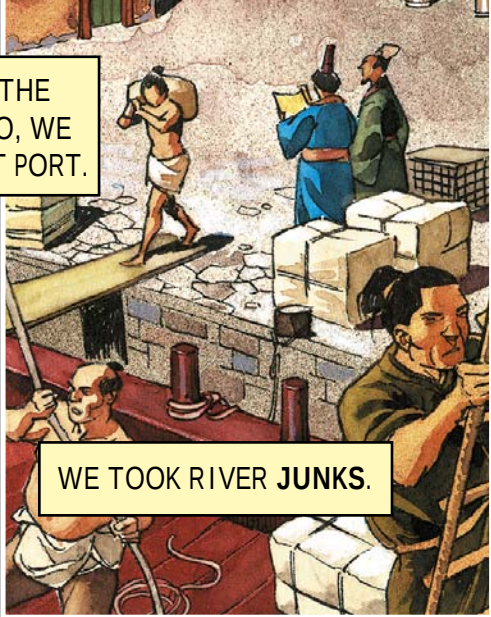
ALERT OUR MAN AT
THE QIN COURT.

TELL HIM...

...THE EMPEROR
MUST DIE!



AS I THOUGHT ABOUT THE
MYSTERIOUS COUNT GAO, WE
ARRIVED AT THE NEAREST PORT.



WE TOOK RIVER JUNKS.

THE EMPEROR WENT ABOARD
THE LARGEST BOAT.



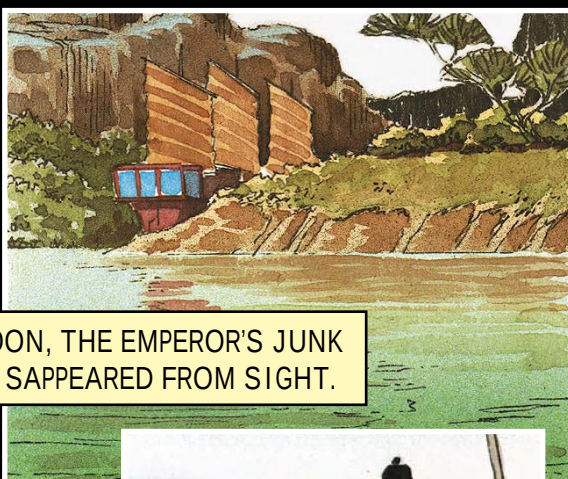
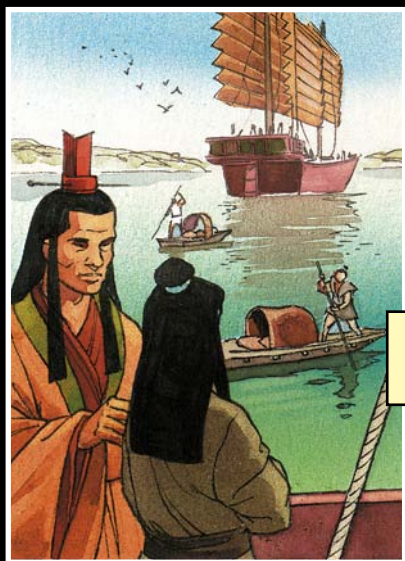
HE SET SAIL
IMMEDIATELY.



FASTER!



WE FOLLOWED IN A
SMALLER VESSEL.



SOON, THE EMPEROR'S JUNK
DISAPPEARED FROM SIGHT.



ON OUR SHIP, COUNT
GAO STOOD ALONE.

WHAT'S HE
DOING?

GAO IS A MASTER
SWORDSMAN.



THE SOLDIERS HAVE ASKED
HIM TO SHOW THEM SOME
SWORD TRICKS.

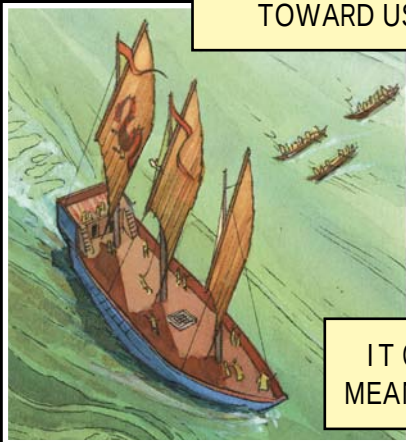




GAO'S BLADE FLASHED
IN THE SUNLIGHT.



SUDDENLY, THE RIVERBANK
WAS ALIVE WITH PEOPLE!



SMALL BOATS SPED
TOWARD US!



IT COULD ONLY
MEAN ONE THING.



PIRATES!!!



THE SOLDIERS QUICKLY
TOOK CHARGE.



YOU TOO,
SHEN!



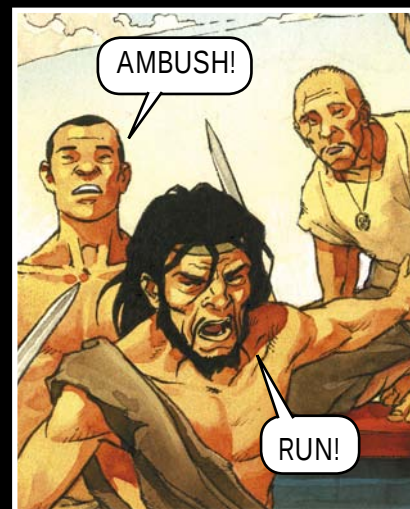
EVERYONE
DOWN BELOW!



WE KEPT QUIET AS
THE PIRATES CAME
ON BOARD.



I WAS AFRAID
FOR MY LIFE.





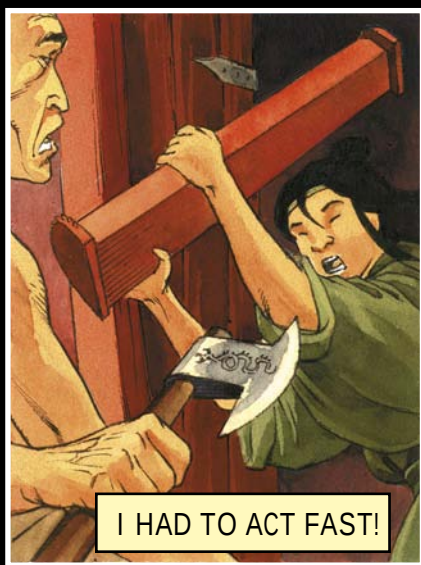
THE PIRATES PUT UP LITTLE RESISTANCE.



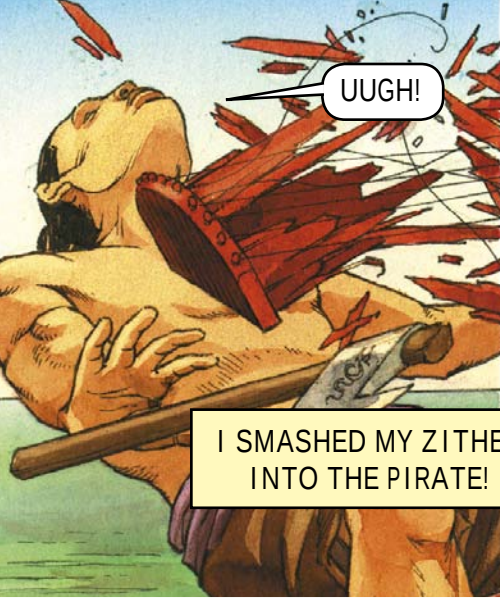
RUN, COWARDS!



BUT ONE PIRATE WASN'T BEATEN YET.



I HAD TO ACT FAST!



UUGH!

I SMASHED MY ZITHER
INTO THE PIRATE!



YOU SAVED MY
LIFE, SHEN.

I'LL NEVER
FORGET IT.

AT THE **PORT**, THE
STORY OF WHAT I'D
DONE SPREAD QUICKLY.

ONLY COUNT
GAO SEEMED
UNIMRESSED.



HMMPH!

WHAT A HERO,
SAVING DUKE SONG!





LEAVE HIM
ALONE, GAO!

I OWE HIM
MY LIFE!

THE EMPEROR
OVERHEARD...



A WARRIOR MUSICIAN!
MOST UNUSUAL!

COME HERE,
BOY!



YOUR MAJESTY!!!



I SEE YOU ARE
AS SKILLED AT
FIGHTING...

...AS YOU ARE AT
PLAYING!

YOU WILL PLAY BY MY SIDE
AT THE **BANQUET!**





WHY WAS GAO SO RUDE TO ME?



FORGET ABOUT GAO. HE'S ONLY JEALOUS.



I DIDN'T SEE MUCH OF HIS FANCY SWORD PLAY IN THE FIGHT WITH THE PIRATES.

AND IT WAS HIS SHOWING OFF THAT STARTED THE ATTACK.



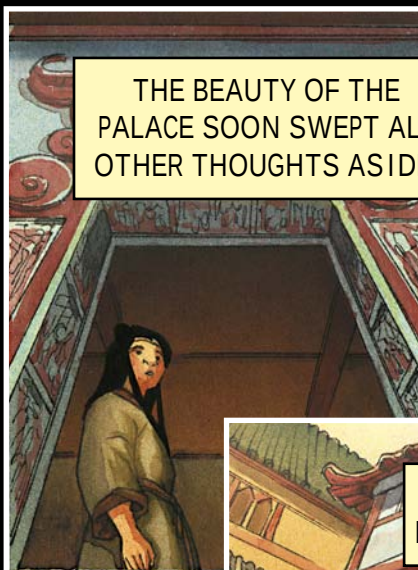
WAS DUKE SONG RIGHT?



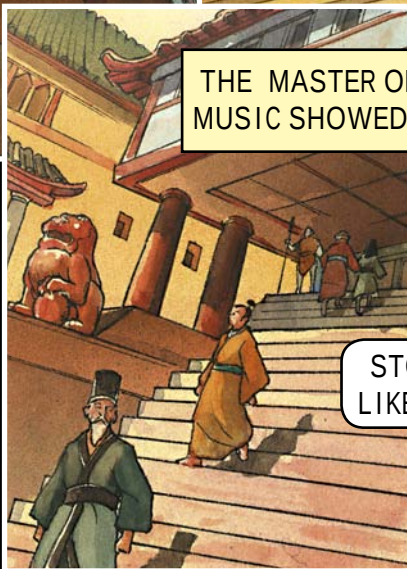
AS WE ARRIVED AT THE PALACE, I WONDERED IF GAO COULD BE TRUSTED.



THE BEAUTY OF THE PALACE SOON SWEEPED ALL OTHER THOUGHTS ASIDE.

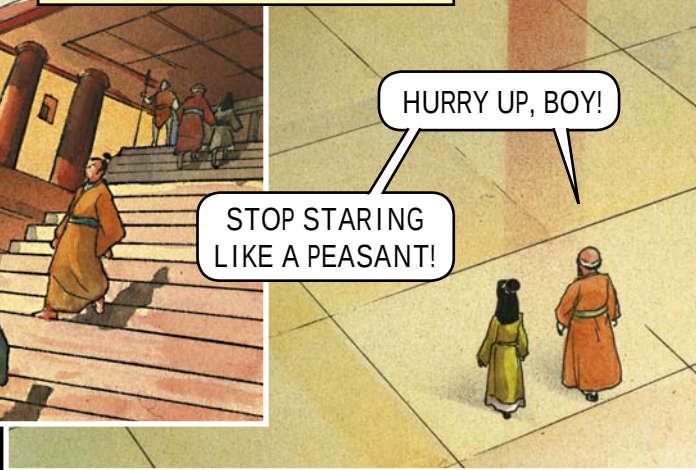


THE MASTER OF THE ROYAL MUSIC SHOWED ME AROUND.



HURRY UP, BOY!

STOP STARING LIKE A PEASANT!



LATER, AS I TRIED TO PRACTICE...



HOW'S IT GOING?



I THINK I'M DOOMED!





WHY'S THAT?



I'M SO NERVOUS ABOUT PLAYING IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE COURT.



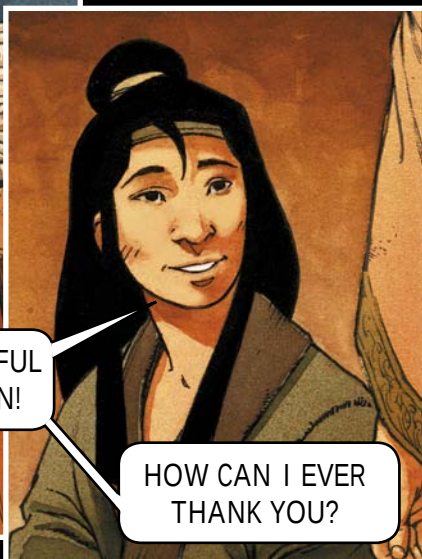
BUT YOU'RE THE EMPEROR'S NEW FAVORITE.

MAYBE THIS WILL HELP YOUR CONFIDENCE.

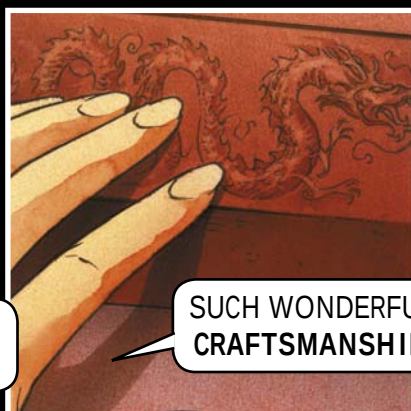
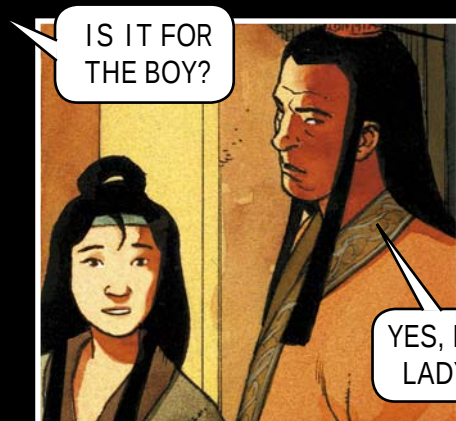
IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ZITHER I'VE EVER SEEN!

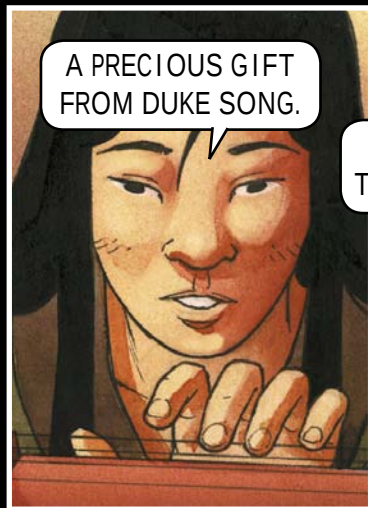


HUH?



HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?



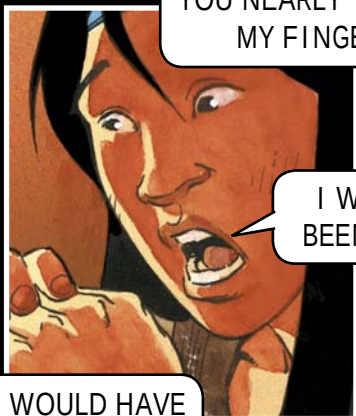


A PRECIOUS GIFT
FROM DUKE SONG.



HOW VERY
THOUGHTFUL!

SNAP!



YOU NEARLY TRAPPED
MY FINGERS!



I WOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO PLAY.

THAT WOULD HAVE
BEEN TERRIBLE.



I REALLY AM
SO CLUMSY!

YOU'D BETTER
WATCH HER, SHEN.



SHE'S THE DAUGHTER
OF THE CAPTAIN OF
THE GUARD...

...AND THE
EMPEROR'S
JEALOUS
LITTLE PET.

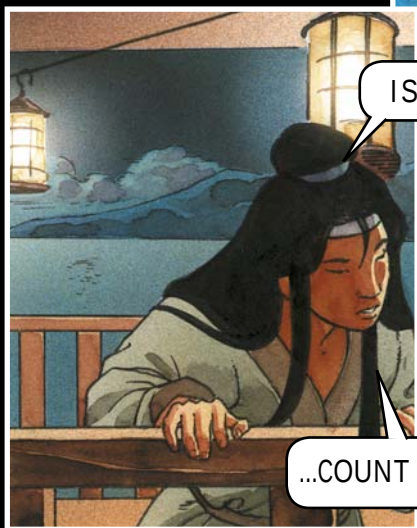
TOO WORRIED TO SLEEP,
I WENT OUTSIDE.



I STOOD WATCHING
THE STARS.



ISN'T THAT...



...COUNT GAO?!



I WONDERED
WHERE HE WAS
GOING SO LATE.



HE DISAPPEARED
OUT OF SIGHT.





I DECIDED TO FOLLOW HIM.



NO ONE WAS AROUND AT THAT TIME OF NIGHT.



OR SO I THOUGHT!



INTRUDER!!



NO! PLEASE, I CAN EXPLAIN!

I WAS JUST...

GUARDS!!

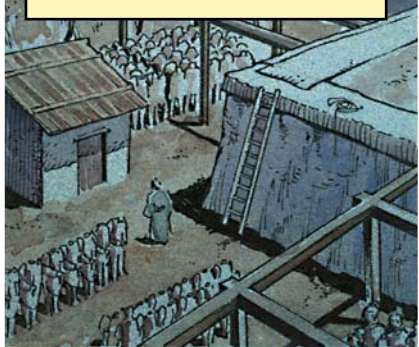


KILL HIM!

GET HIM!



MEANWHILE, AT A
WORKSHOP WHERE
THE EMPEROR'S **MODEL
SOLDIERS** WERE MADE...



MY LORD?

I'VE BROUGHT
THE **WEAPON**...



EXCELLENT!
GIVE IT TO ME!

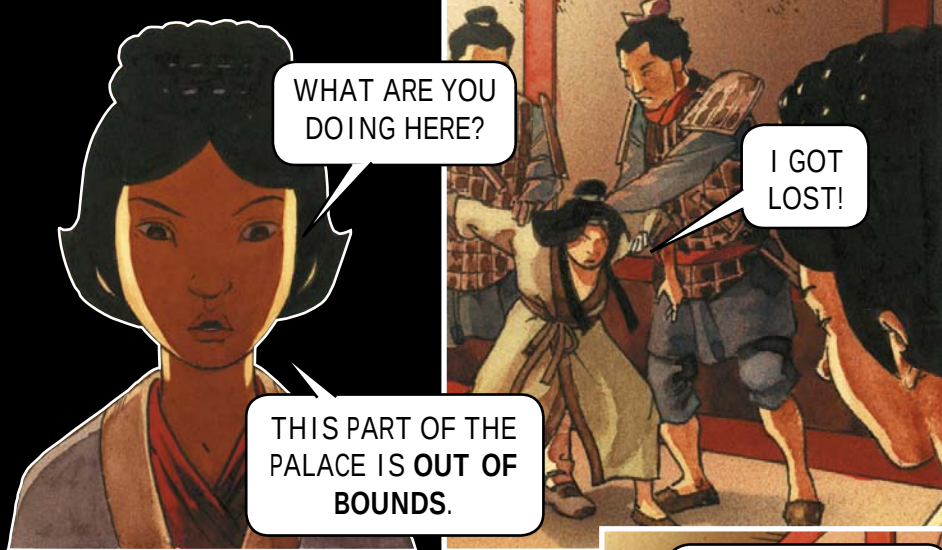


BE CAREFUL NOT TO
TOUCH THE BLADE.



THE POISON BRINGS
INSTANT DEATH!





MEILING!
WHAT'S ALL THIS?

FATHER!





I DON'T
TRUST HIM.

AS I TRIED TO SLEEP,
THOUGHTS TROUBLED ME...

...WHY DID MEILING
HATE ME?

...WHERE WAS
GAO GOING?

...WOULD I PLAY WELL
FOR THE EMPEROR...
ZZZZZZZZZ...





THE ZITHER!



THE BRAT WILL
NEVER KNOW...



...HOW DEADLY HIS
PLAYING CAN BE!



THE NEXT DAY I
WAS SEARCHED...



... THEN TOOK MY
PLACE AT THE
EMPEROR'S FEET.



PLAY,
BOY!



MY ZITHER SOUNDED
TERRIBLE!

I COULDN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT WAS WRONG.

SILENCE! HOW DARE
YOU INSULT ME
WITH THIS DIN!



I'LL DEAL WITH
YOU AFTER THE
CEREMONY!

POOR
BOY!

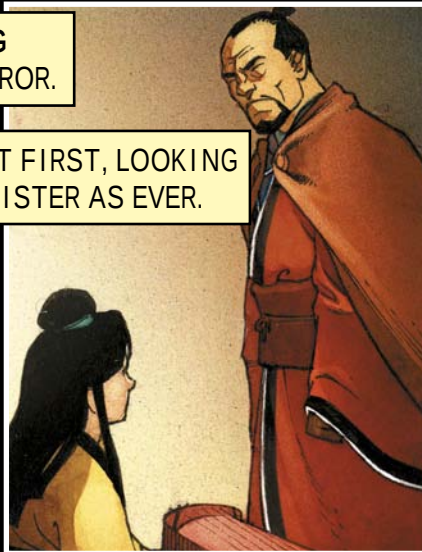


HA! WHAT
A FOOL!

THE NOBLES BEGAN **PAYING
HOMAGE** TO THE MIGHTY EMPEROR.



GAO WENT FIRST, LOOKING
AS SINISTER AS EVER.



I **SUBMIT** TO YOUR
GREATNESS, O EMPEROR
OF THE WORLD!





ALL THE NOBLES CAME FORWARD, ONE BY ONE.



FINALLY, IT WAS THE TURN OF DUKE SONG....

...MY FRIEND.



BUT HIS EASY SMILE SUDDENLY CHANGED.

BEFORE I COULD MOVE, HE POUNCED!



MY LORD!!!

SMASH!!



WHAT...??

NOW I KNEW WHY
MY ZITHER HAD
SOUNDED SO BAD!
THERE WAS A KNIFE
HIDDEN INSIDE IT.

SONG GRABBED THE DEADLY BLADE
AND LUNGED FOR THE EMPEROR.



NO!

I GRABBED
HIS LEGS...



...AND CLUNG ON WITH
ALL MY MIGHT!



GET OFF,
PEASANT!



BEHIND ME, GAO
GRABBED A SWORD.

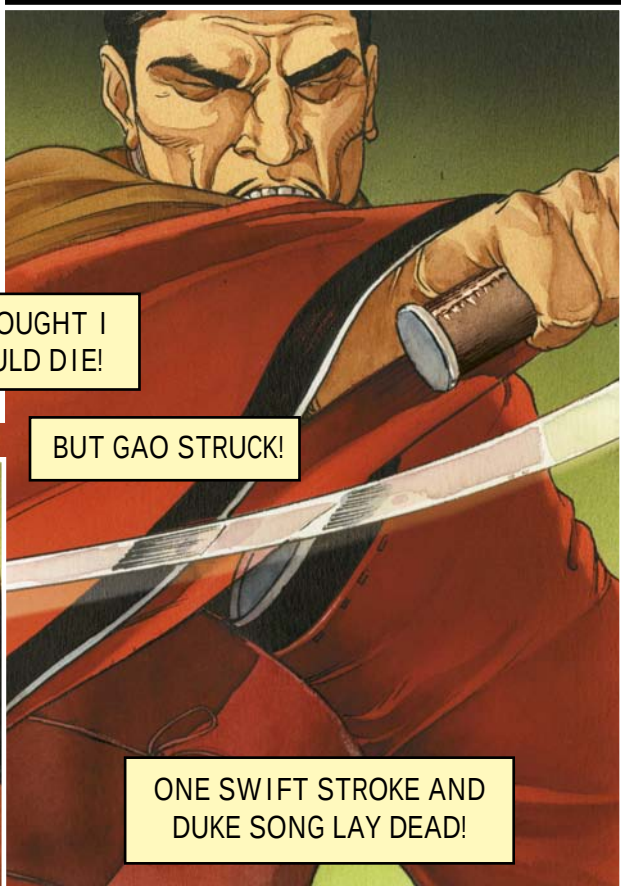


LET GO, BRAT!



HELP!

I THOUGHT I
WOULD DIE!



BUT GAO STRUCK!

ONE SWIFT STROKE AND
DUKE SONG LAY DEAD!





WAS HE REALLY
A TRAITOR?



YES! HE WAS
A CHU SPY.

I HAVE BEEN
WATCHING HIM
FOR MONTHS.



GAO, YOU HAVE
SERVED ME WELL!

AS HAVE YOU,
SHEN!



YOU SEEM TO
BRING ME LUCK!



I THINK I'LL
KEEP YOU CLOSE
AT HAND.

FRIENDS?

NEVER!

THE
END



King Menes
unites Egypt

c. 3100

Minoan civilization
develops on Crete



c. 2000

Zhou dynasty
starts in China

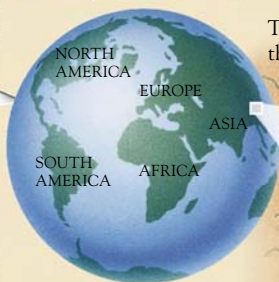


c. 1050

3000 BCE (BEFORE COMMON ERA)

2000 BCE

1000 BCE



This map shows the extent of the first empire, the Qin, and the last empire, the Qing.

ANCIENT CHINA

China stretches across central and eastern Asia. For thousands of years, it was made up of many kingdoms. In 221 BCE, the Qin conquered the other kingdoms and united the country under the Empire. It was ruled for 2,000 years by emperors who came from different families known as “dynasties.” The last dynasty was the Qing, which ruled from 1644 until 1912, when the people formed a republic.



GLOSSARY

EMPEROR

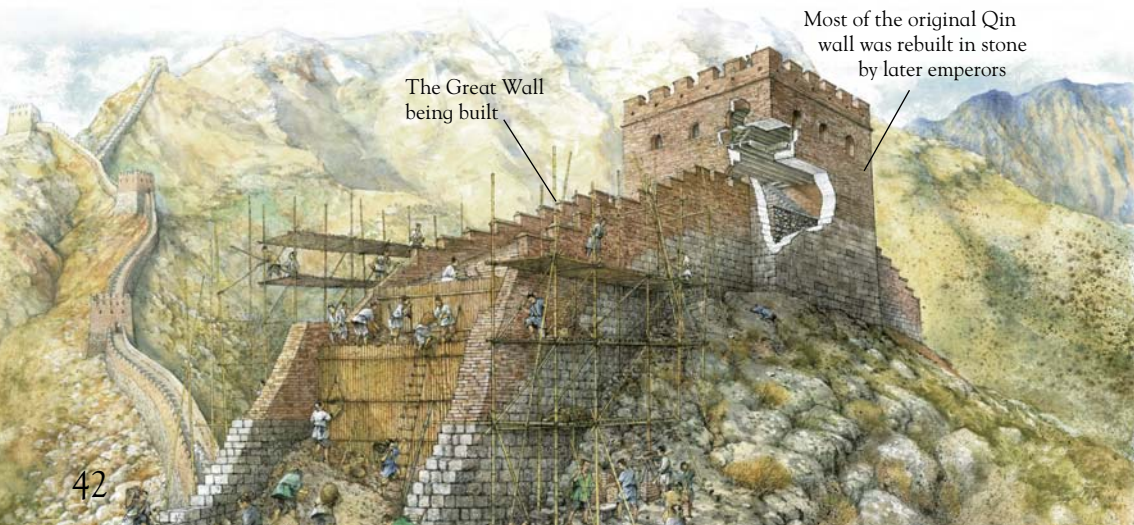
PAGE 6

The emperor was the ruler of the Chinese Empire. The First Emperor, Shihuangdi, conquered many Chinese kingdoms to create the Empire.

GREAT WALL

PAGE 6

The Great Wall of China was built to protect the Empire from foreign invaders in the north. Shihuangdi joined up the existing small walls to create the Great Wall. It was added to and rebuilt over hundreds of years.



The Great Wall
being built

Most of the original Qin
wall was rebuilt in stone
by later emperors



Shihuangdi
unites China

221



Rome
invaded by
barbarians

410

Mongols
establish Yuan
dynasty in China

1279



US astronauts
land on
the Moon



1969

TIMELINE

1 CE (COMMON ERA)

1000 CE

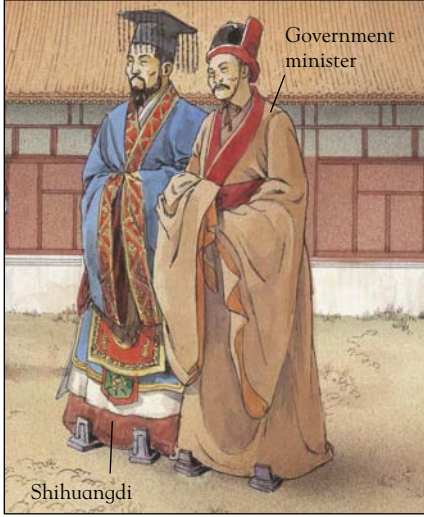
2000 CE

YOU ARE HERE

SHIHUANGDI

PAGE 7

Shihuangdi (pronounced She-Her-Wang-Di) was the First Emperor of China. He ruled the Qin (pronounced Chin) kingdom that conquered the other Chinese kingdoms and created the Empire in 221 BCE.



Government
minister

Shihuangdi

CORRUPT OVERSEERS

PAGE 7

The overseers made sure the building work was done properly. The corrupt ones were dishonest.

EXECUTIONS

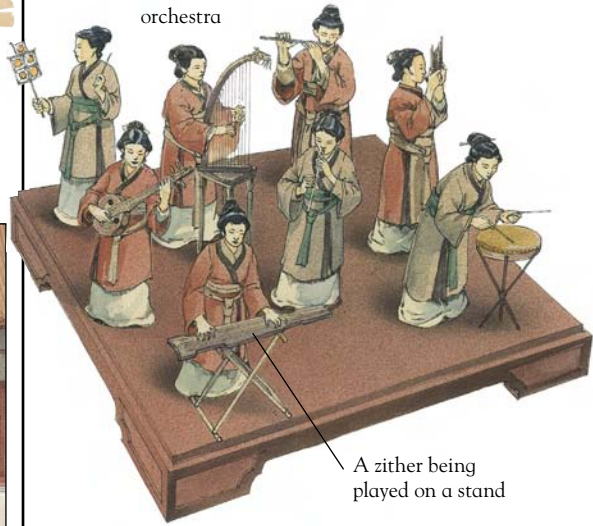
PAGE 7

Executions are killing people as a punishment.



These men are to
be executed by
being buried alive

A Chinese
orchestra



A zither being
played on a stand

ZITHER

PAGE 8

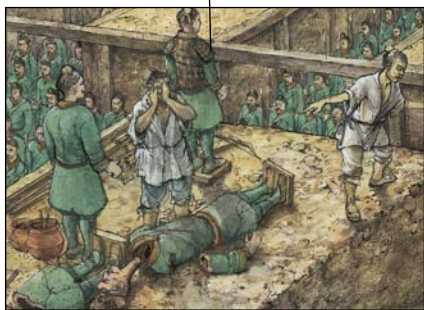
Shen's instrument was a type of zither called a *qin*. It had seven strings and was played on the lap or on a stand. Zithers usually formed part of an orchestra.

ASSASSINS

PAGE 9

People who try to kill a ruler or leader are called assassins. Many assassins tried to kill Shihuangdi because he was a harsh ruler.

The terra-cotta soldiers being
put in the emperor's tomb



GUARDS

PAGE 9

The emperor's many guards protected him from assassins. He even built his own model army to protect him after death. These terra-cotta (clay) soldiers can still be seen today.

COURT

PAGE 11

The court was made up of the noble people who lived with the emperor in his palaces and went with him on his travels. Some of the court has traveled with him to the Great Wall.

CAPITAL

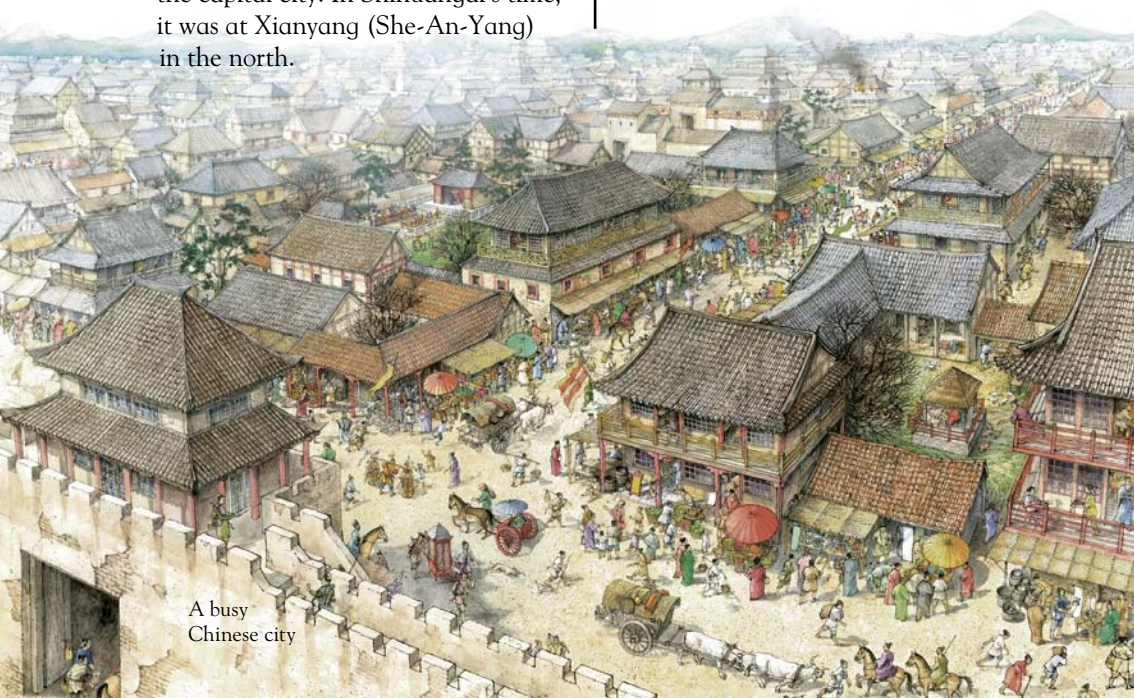
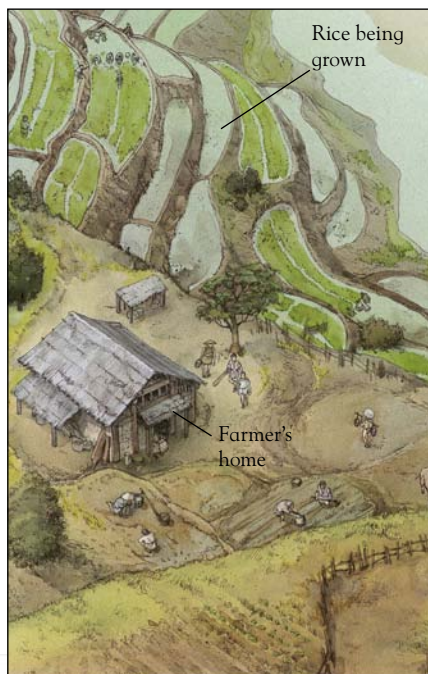
PAGE 11

The city where the emperor lived and from which he ruled the Empire was the capital city. In Shihuangdi's time, it was at Xianyang (She-An-Yang) in the north.

HOME

PAGE 12

Most people in Ancient China were farmers who lived on crops such as rice. Their homes were small wooden huts with thatched or tiled roofs.



A busy
Chinese city

MONEY

PAGE 13

At the time of Shihuangdi, Chinese money was in the form of bronze coins. They could be used throughout the Empire. Some coins were shaped like knives and spades.



MUSICIAN

PAGE 15

Music and musicians were an important part of court life. The court orchestra played when the emperor received visitors or held banquets.

SINISTER

PAGE 15

If someone is described as sinister, they look threatening or wicked.

KINGDOM OF CHU

PAGE 17

Chu was one of the kingdoms that the Qin defeated to create the Empire. Some of the nobles in Chu were still unhappy about the Qin victory.

JUNKS

PAGE 18

Junks were Chinese wooden sailing ships. They were used to carry goods along rivers and by sea.



MASTER SWORDSMAN PAGE 19

Chinese soldiers used weapons such as swords and spears. A master swordsman was a soldier who was highly skilled at using a blade.

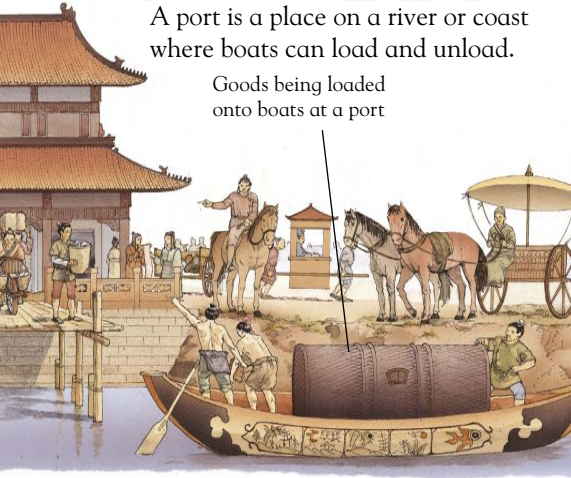
PIRATES PAGE 21

Pirates are thieves who steal from ships. Attacks by pirates were common in Chinese rivers and seas.

PORT PAGE 24

A port is a place on a river or coast where boats can load and unload.

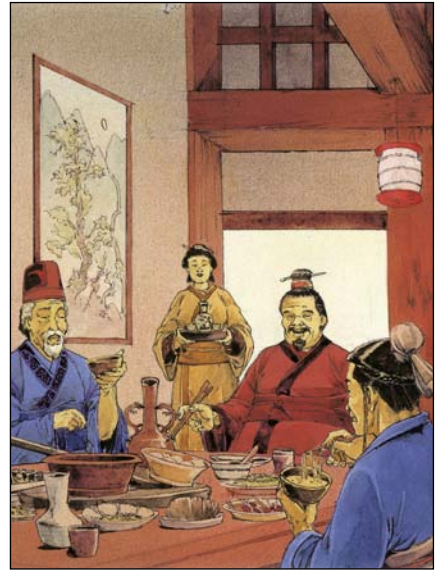
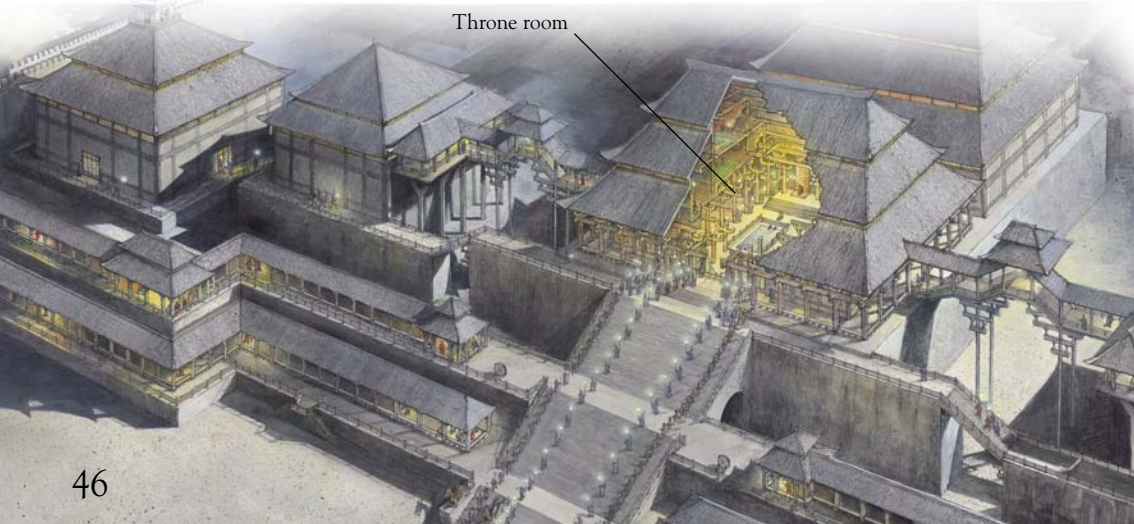
Goods being loaded
onto boats at a port



PALACE PAGE 26

The emperor lived in a grand building called a palace. It had a special room called a throne room where the emperor greeted his guests.

Throne room

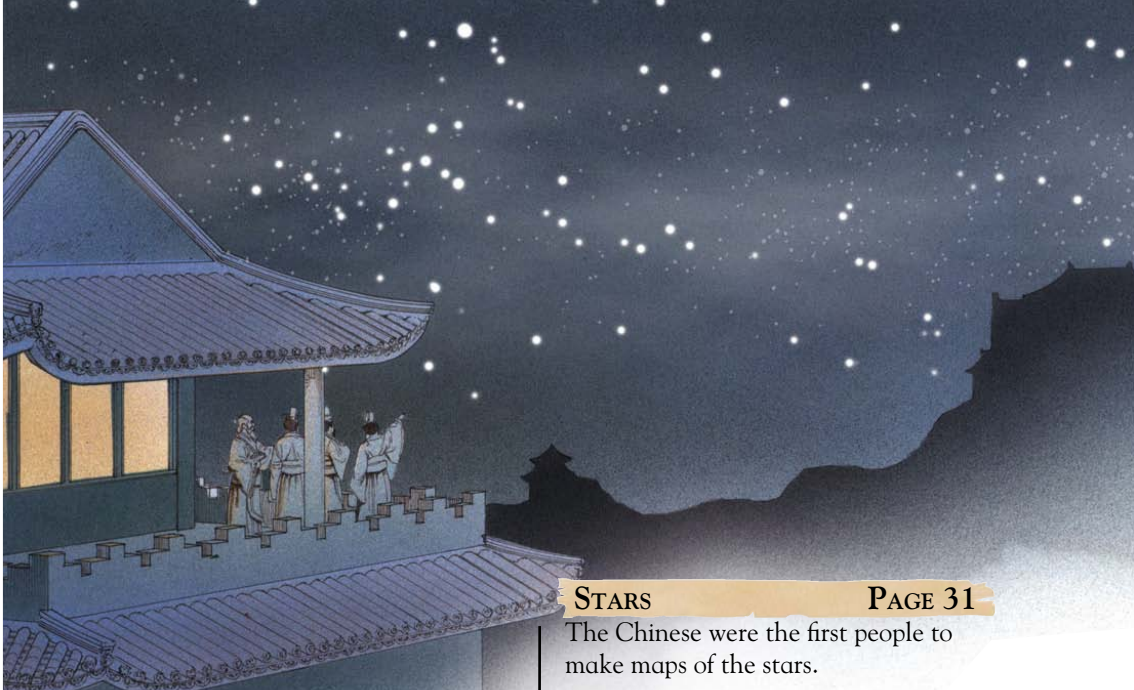


BANQUET PAGE 25

A banquet is a grand party at which lots of food is served. Rich Chinese people, like those at court, ate lots of dishes that included meat, fish, chicken, and vegetables. They drank wine made from rice and other grains.

CRAFTSMANSHIP PAGE 29

Something made well by a skilled worker is said to show good craftsmanship. The Chinese were highly skilled at making fine objects from materials like bronze and silk.



STARS

PAGE 31

The Chinese were the first people to make maps of the stars.

JEALOUS

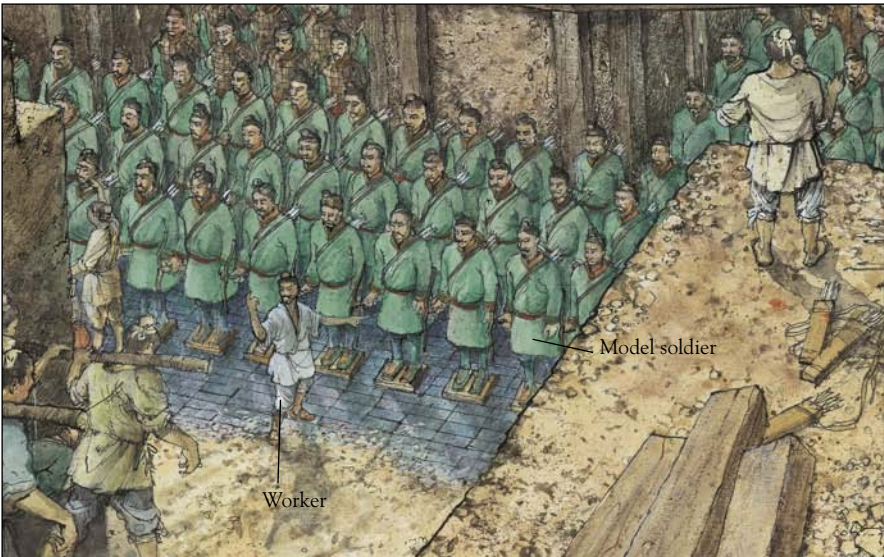
PAGE 30

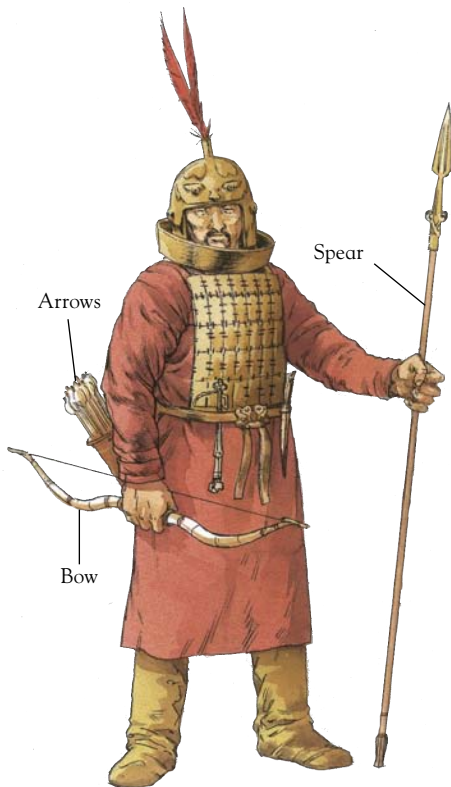
To be jealous is to fear that someone else is taking the attention you want. Meiling is jealous of Shen because she fears he will become the emperor's new favorite instead of her.

MODEL SOLDIERS

PAGE 33

Shihuangdi had a whole army of terra-cotta (clay) model soldiers buried next to his tomb. The emperor believed they would protect him in the afterlife. In the 1970s, many of the soldiers were dug up and are now displayed in a museum.





WEAPON PAGE 33

Chinese weapons included swords, spears, axes, and bows. They invented a powerful type of bow called a crossbow and were the first to use gunpowder to make rockets.

OUT OF BOUNDS PAGE 34

Somewhere that is out of bounds is a place that may only be entered by those with permission.

PAYING HOMAGE PAGE 37

To pay someone homage means to show them honor and respect. Count Gao, Duke Song, and the other nobles bow before the emperor to show that they honor him and that he is their master.

Nobles paying
homage to the
emperor

CEREMONY PAGE 37

A ceremony is a special event held to celebrate something, where things are done in a particular way.

SUBMIT PAGE 37

To submit is to give in to the power of someone else. Count Gao is telling the emperor that he knows he is less powerful than his master.

TRAITOR PAGE 41

A traitor is someone who betrays their country or ruler. Song has betrayed the emperor by trying to kill him!

SPY PAGE 41

A spy is someone who watches others secretly to gather information. Spies are often pretending to be someone they are not. Duke Song was pretending to be loyal to the emperor.



READERS

Level 3

Spacebusters: The Race to the Moon
Beastly Tales
Shark Attack!
Titanic
Invaders from Outer Space
Movie Magic
Plants Bite Back!
Time Traveler
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Aladdin
Heidi
Zeppelin: The Age of the Airship
Spies
Terror on the Amazon
Disasters at Sea
The Story of Anne Frank
Abraham Lincoln: Lawyer, Leader, Legend
George Washington: Soldier, Hero,
President
Extreme Sports
Spiders' Secrets
The Big Dinosaur Dig

Space Heroes: Amazing Astronauts
The Story of Chocolate
School Days Around the World
LEGO: Mission to the Arctic
NFL: Super Bowl Heroes
NFL: Peyton Manning
NFL: Whiz Kid Quarterbacks
MLB: Home Run Heroes: Big Mac, Sammy, and
Junior
MLB: Roberto Clemente
MLB: Roberto Clemente *en español*
MLB: World Series Heroes
MLB: Record Breakers
MLB: Down to the Wire: Baseball's Great
Pennant Races
Star Wars: Star Pilot
Abraham Lincoln: Abogado, Líder,
Leyenda *en español*
Al Espacio: La Carrera a la Luna
en español
The X-Men School
Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest Superteam

Level 4

Days of the Knights
Volcanoes and Other Natural Disasters
Secrets of the Mummies
Pirates! Raiders of the High Seas
Horse Heroes
Trojan Horse
Micro Monsters
Going for Gold!
Extreme Machines
Flying Ace: The Story of Amelia
Earhart
Robin Hood
Black Beauty
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Martin Luther King, Jr.
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Welcome to The Globe! The
Story of Shakespeare's Theater
Spooky Spinechillers
Antarctic Adventure
Space Station: Accident on Mir
Atlantis: The Lost City?
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Danger on the Mountain: Scaling the World's
Highest Peaks
Crime Busters
The Story of Muhammad Ali
First Flight: The Story of the
Wright Brothers
D-day Landings: The Story of
the Allied Invasion
Solo Sailing
LEGO: Race for Survival
WCW: Going for Goldberg
WCW: Feel the Sting

WCW: Fit for the Title
WCW: Finishing Moves
JLA: Batman's Guide to Crime
and Detection
JLA: Superman's Guide to the Universe
JLA: Aquaman's Guide to the Oceans
JLA: Wonder Woman's Book of Myths
JLA: The Flash's Book of Speed
JLA: Green Lantern's Book of
Inventions
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Creating the X-Men: How Comic Books
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Spider-Man's Amazing Powers
The Story of Spider-Man
The Incredible Hulk's Book of Strength
The Story of the Incredible Hulk
Transformers Armada: The Awakening
Transformers Armada: The Quest
Transformers Armada: The Unicron
Battles
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Transformers Energon: Terrorcon Attack
Star Wars: Galactic Crisis
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